

## ADVERTISEMENT.

In a few Days will be published,

A GENERAL APOLOGY for all MINISTERS OF STATE, from SEJANUS down to the present Times; in which the Complaints of Mismanagement, Corruption, and Oppression will be demonstrated to be groundless, and occasion'd only by Envy, Faction, Disappointment and Revenge. To which will be added, A Catalogue of those eminent Writers, upon whose Authority this Work will be built.

Nec Pudor obstatit——Juv.

Printed for T. W. in Pater-noster Row.



N<sup>o</sup> 26. Monday, March 6.

*Si defendere delictum, quam vertere malle,  
Nullum ultra verbum aut operam insumebat inanem,  
Quin sine Rivali, TEQUE & TUA solus amares. HOR.*



HAVING taken on myself the Character and Profession of a publick Writer, I design, by Degrees, to retail out to my Countrymen all the various Observations, which I have been treasuring up for these many Years past; and, like my immortal Predecessor, the *Spectator*, to print my self out. If all, that I shall thus communicate, should not happen to be thought Subjects of Instruction, yet I hope at least they will be looked on as Matters of innocent Amusement.

When I first set forth in the World, and was capable of making any Reflections on publick Affairs, the Mismanagement and Corruption of King Charles the Second's Reign furnish'd the common Topicks of Conversation; and I very well remember, that nothing

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thing gave keener Disgust, or was mention'd with more Asperity by the *Whigs* of those Times (who filled themselves the *Country Party*) than that *unnatural Conjunction*, as it was then called; of the Powers of *England* and *France* to destroy the Republick of *Holland*; which was a Circumstance of such Importance to *Europe*, that it occasion'd many and various Speculations on the Rise and Progress of that popular State; as well as on the great Danger, to which it was reduced, of being entirely subverted by that War.

The Counsels of *England* took this unhappy Turn, as it was then generally esteemed, and began to swerve from their true Interest, as well as from their former Conduct, under the Administration of Sir THOMAS CLIFFORD, who was at that Time at the Head of the TREASURY; a Man of a voluble Tongue, but of a bold and enterprizing Spirit, without Knowledge or Capacity equal to his Designs. He had, in several Instances, discover'd his Enmity to that State, before it broke out into Measures of Hostility. He begun with complaining of Incroachments upon TRADE, and spirited up our *East-India Company* to bring Remonstrances against them; which were, in that Reign, made Use of as the Pretences of War, and as constantly laid aside, upon Conclusions of Peace. Sir William Temple says (in a Letter to his Father upon this Occasion) that our Pretensions upon the Business of Surinam, and the *East-India Company* have grown high, and been managed with Sharpness between us and the States, and grounded (as Monsieur de Witt conceives) more upon a Design of shewing them our ill Humour than our Reason. The Minister represented them as treating even the PERSON of the KING ill, and endeavoured to render them odious to the People, by setting them forth as treacherous in all their Negotiations and Professions. Nay, he went so far as to practice upon Sir William Temple to join with him

him in such *false Representations* as would best serve his pernicious Purposes; a Method, which has been too common under bad Administrations; but it was rejected with Scorn by that able and honest Ambassador, as we may find in the same Letter before cited, where he says, that being very hardly press'd by Sir Thomas Clifford to resume the Affair of Surinam and the East-India Company; and, in case of the Non-compliance of the Dutch, to let the King and all the World know how basely and unworthily the States had used him; and to declare publicly how their Ministers were a Company of Rogues and Rascals, and not fit for his Majesty or any other Prince to have any Thing to do with. — He answered very calmly, that he was not a Man fit to make SUCH DECLARATIONS.

This evil Minister was so intent upon another War with Holland, that He resolved, by any Methods, to pick a Quarrel with them, and provoke them to some Action, which might be made the Pretence of justifying it to the People, and representing them as the Authors of it. Accordingly, within a Year after this unwarrantable Attempt upon that great and worthy Man, he bethought himself of another Stratagem; which, in his Opinion, could not fail of producing the desired Effect; for the same Author informs us, that a Yacht being sent over to Holland to bring home his Lady and Family from the Hague, the Captain received publick Orders from Court, that if he came in sight of the Dutch Fleet (which was then floating in the Channel) he should sail thro' them, and fire at those Ships, which were next him, till he made them strike Sail, or till they shot at him again. He passed, it seems, into Holland, without seeing them; but as he returned (with the Lady Temple and her Children aboard) he met the Fleet, and pursued his Orders, by sailing through them, and making several Shot at those near him; upon which, the Dutch Admiral (not suspecting the Reason of such an unac-

count-

*countable Procedure*, and believing them to be in some *Distress*) immediately sent a Boat aboard them, and went afterwards himself to enquire into the Occasion of their firing; and being acquainted by the Captain with his *Orders*, he said it was a Point they had received no Instructions about from their Masters, and did not know how that Affair was agreed on between his *Majesty* and the *States*; but though it were settled, yet, as he justly observed, the Captain could not expect that the *Fleet* and *Admiral* should strike to a *Yatch*, which was but a *Pleasure-Boat*, or at least served only for *Passage*, and could not pass for one of the King's *Men of War*. To which the Captain reply'd, that he had his *Orders*, and was bound to follow them. However, the Admiral let them pass safely through his whole Fleet, without offering any return of *Hostility*; and thereby, in a great Measure, defeated the quarrellsome Design of the *English Ministry*.

But *Clifford* was determined on a Rupture; and at last struck a Blow, which put it out of the Power of the *Dutch* to prevent it, by attacking their *Smyrna Fleet*, and thereby commencing a War, the fatal Consequences whereof have been ever since felt in *Europe*.

About the same time, it was observable that this daring Minister was created a *Peer*, and made Lord *High Treasurer*, for proposing the Expedient of *shutting up the Exchequer*; which was the last Shift he had left, desperate as it was, to support his Master under those Difficulties, in which he had involved him, by such precipitate and extravagant Counsels.

I cannot forbear taking Notice in this Place (which, I hope will not be esteemed an improper Digression) what an insuperable Antipathy and Rancour the Generality of the People of *England*, and especially the whole Body of the *Whigs*, had conceived at that Time, and have ever since retained, till very lately, against the *French Nation*; as if an *Alliance*, or even a friendly

*friendly Correspondence* with them were of the most dangerous Consequence to the Interest of this Kingdom. I have now before me, a Book, entitled, *The Secret History of EUROPE*, in three Volumes, written no longer ago than the *last Reign*, by one of the hot-brain'd Zealots of *that Party*; which is stuffed, in almost every Page, with the bitterest and most indecent Reflections on that *great People*, as well as on *Those*, who were supposed, at that Time, to be in their Interest. I will beg Leave only to quote a Passage or two, from which we may judge of the Spirit of the Author, as well as of *Those*, who were then known to care for him, and encourage his Works.

Having mentioned the *ecclesiastical Commission* of King *James the Second's* Reign, he endeavours to justify some of the Gentlemen, who were concerned in that *illegal Commission*, and particularly the late Duke of *Buckingham*; for which Purpose he produces a Passage out of the Letter, which his Grace, then Earl of *Mulgrave*, wrote to Dr. *Tillotson*, after the *Revolution*.

" I appeal, *says his Lordship*, to the unquestionable  
 " Testimony of the *Spanish* Ambassador, if I did not  
 " zealously and constantly take all Occasions to oppose  
 " the *French Interest*; because I knew it *directly op-*  
 " *posite* both to the *King* and *Kingdom's* Good, which  
 " are indeed Things inseparable, and ought to be ac-  
 " counted as a fundamental Maxim, in all Councils  
 " of Princes.

Upon which, this *secret Historian* and *furious Partizan* makes the following Observation.

" This, *says he*, his Lordship wrote, when there  
 " was no War declared against *France*; and This is  
 " the *Maxim* that I shall ever labour to advance in  
 " the Minds of all *honest Britons*; frankly confessing,  
 " that whatever Denomination I may pass under for  
 " my Love of *Liberty*, and our happy *Constitution*, I  
 " never

“ never was, and never shall be a *Whig*, farther than  
 “ is explained in the Assertion of this noble Lord,  
 “ that the *French Interest* is directly opposite to the  
 “ Good of my *Queen* and *Country*; and that the In-  
 “ terest of my *Queen* and *Country* are inseparable.  
 “ 'Tis for This, and This only, I write; and shall  
 “ continue so to do, as long as it is thought to be of  
 “ any Service.

He tells us, in another Place, upon King *James's*  
 admitting Monsieur *Barillon* and the Count *de Lau-*  
*son* into all his Councils, that “ the former would, at  
 “ that Time, have frightened the *English* with Re-  
 “ presentations of the Power and Bigotry of the House  
 “ of *AUSTRIA*; it being the Policy of the *French*,  
 “ to represent that House as impotent or powerful, as  
 “ Enemies or Friends to the *PROTESTANTS*, ac-  
 “ cording as the present Turn is to be served by it.

And, in another Place, he says, “ Tho' I shall ne-  
 “ ver contribute to the Infraction of any Treaty with  
 “ any Prince whatsoever, I shall always have an Ab-  
 “ horrence for a *French Interest*, so contrary to that  
 “ of *England*.”

I could cite a Multitude of Passages to the same  
 Effect, out of this Book; which is indeed full of  
 them, from the Beginning to the End. Nor is He  
 the only Author of this Kind; for it would be an  
 easy Task to produce a Cart-load of Books, Pamphlets  
 and loose Sheets, published by Men of the same Stamp,  
 since the *Restoration*, in order to inculcate the same  
 malevolent Principles of Aversion to *France* into the  
 Minds of the People of this Kingdom.

For my Part, as I always disapproved of these ge-  
 neral Inveclives my self, even when they were most  
 current and fashionable; so I cannot help declaring  
 my Agreement with a late ingenious and courtly Wri-  
 ter, who very justly observes, “ that 'tis not the  
 “ Emperor, nor *France*, nor *Spain*, nor this, nor  
 “ t'other Potentate, to whom we must keep up a  
 “ perpetual

“ *perpetual Opposition*, or grant a *constant Assistance*.  
 “ Power will always be fluctuating amongst the Prin-  
 “ ces of *Europe*, and wherever the present Flow of it  
 “ appears, there is our *Enemy*; there the proper  
 “ Object of our *Fears*.

But, to return. I must observe that however the State and Circumstances of Affairs in *Europe* may have lately altered; and however *Parties* may run at present, it is certain and demonstrable, that our *Alliance* with *France*, in King *Charles II's* Reign, was, to give it the softest Name, a manifest *Blunder* in Politicks; since that War, thus unjustly and unadvisedly entered upon, raised *France* to such an Height, by joining with Her to over run the *Netherlands*, that it was the chief, if not the only Occasion of the two last *consuming Wars*, (which cost us so much Blood, and involved us in so much Debt!) and had very near destroyed that *popular State*, which had, in its Rise and Progress, surprized the whole World; a State, which, by its excellent *Oeconomy*, not only raised it self to that Height, in which it once flourished, and to which it is now, in some Measure, restored; but has also furnished, by their Example, some excellent Instructions to all *free States*, for their Conduct, (making proper Allowances for the different Constitutions of their Governments) which I beg Leave to transcribe from Sir *William Temple*.

One Circumstance, which he mentions as an occasion of their *Greatness*, “ was the *Simplicity* and  
 “ *Modesty* of their *Magistrates*, in their way of Liv-  
 “ ing; which is so general, *says he*, that I never  
 “ knew one among them exceed the common, fru-  
 “ gal, popular Air; and so great that, of the two  
 “ chief Officers in my Time, Vice-Admiral *de Rui-*  
 “ *ter*, and the Pensioner *de Witt*, (one generally  
 “ esteemed by foreign Nations as great a *Seaman*,  
 “ and the other as great a *Statesman*, as any of their  
 “ Age) I never saw the *First* in Cloaths better than  
 “ the



“ the commonest *Sea Captain*, nor with above one  
 “ Man following him, nor in a Coach ; and, in his  
 “ House, neither was the Size, Building, Furniture,  
 “ or Entertainment at all exceeding the Use of every  
 “ common Merchant and Tradesman in this Town.  
 “ For the Pensioner *de Witt*, who had the great In-  
 “ fluence in the Government, the whole Train and  
 “ Expence of his Domesticks went very equal with  
 “ either common Deputies, or Ministers of the State ;  
 “ his Habit grave, and plain, and popular ; his Ta-  
 “ ble, what only served turn for his Family or a  
 “ Friend ; his Train (besides Commissaries and  
 “ Clerks kept for him in an Office, adjoining to his  
 “ House, at the publick Charge) was only one Man,  
 “ who performed all the menial Service of his House  
 “ at Home ; and, upon his Visits of Ceremony, put-  
 “ ting on a plain livery Cloak, attended his Coach  
 “ abroad ; for, upon other Occasions, he was seen usu-  
 “ ally in the Street on Foot and alone, like the com-  
 “ monest Burgher of the Town. Nor was this  
 “ Manner of Life affected, or used only by these  
 “ particular Men ; but was the general Fashion and  
 “ Mode among all the Magistrates of the State ; for  
 “ I speak not of the military Officers, who are reckon-  
 “ ed their Servants, and live in a different Garb,  
 “ though generally modester than in other Coun-  
 “ tries.”

He concludes this Head, as I will this Paper, with  
 the following excellent Observation.

“ Thus this stomachful People, who could not  
 “ endure the least Exercise of arbitrary Power or  
 “ Impositions, or the Sight of any foreign Troops  
 “ under the *Spanish* Government, have been since  
 “ inured to all of them, in the highest Degree, un-  
 “ der their own popular Magistrates ; bridled with  
 “ hard Laws ; terrify’d with severe Executions ; en-  
 “ vironed with foreign Forces ; and oppressed with  
 “ the most cruel Hardships, and Variety of Taxes,  
 “ O “ that